Kaizoku Scanz
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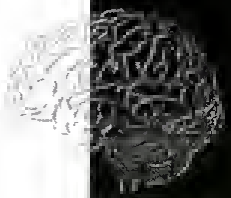
ドン
HEY! WE'RE NEW PROJECTS AND WE WANT TO GET PICKED UP BY YOU! YOROSHIKU ONEGAISHI-MASU!
♡
BUT...
WE CAN'T... WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH EDITORS...
Ah... unsuspecting manga-ka-to-be's... their soon-to-come abandonment and tears of unsentimentality
BUT THEY LOOK SO CUTE AND INNOCENT! WE CAN'T DO THIS THEM! IT'S TOO CRUEL! ;—;
well can't do anything till we get more editors
COME JOIN US WE'RE LOOKING FOR CLEANERS, TYPESET-TERS AND QUALITY CHECKERS
SEND A MAIL TO KAIZOKUSCANZ@GMAIL.COM
PLEASE DON'T MAKE US ABANDON THE PRETTY MANGA!

Chapter 4: MISAKI

NIGHT HEAD



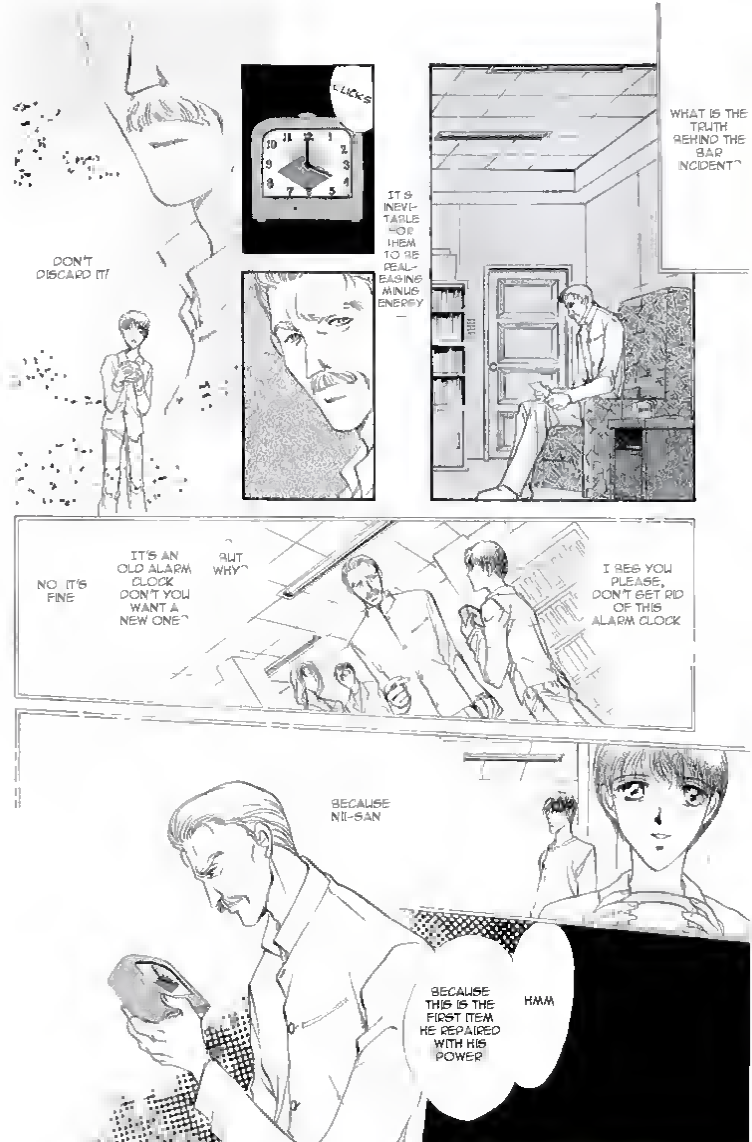
I WOKE UP TO THE PHONE RINGING CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT
IT WAS ONLY MY IMAGIN-ATION
THEN I REAL-ISED.
HELLO? HELLO?
HOW ARE YOU MIKUPIYA-SAN?
I WAS IMAGINING THE PHONE RINGS
WHAT ELSE COULD I BE HOPING FOR HUH?
IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO GET IN CONTACT WITH ME ANYMORE
IT'S SO LATE!
I MUST HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP WHILE READING
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

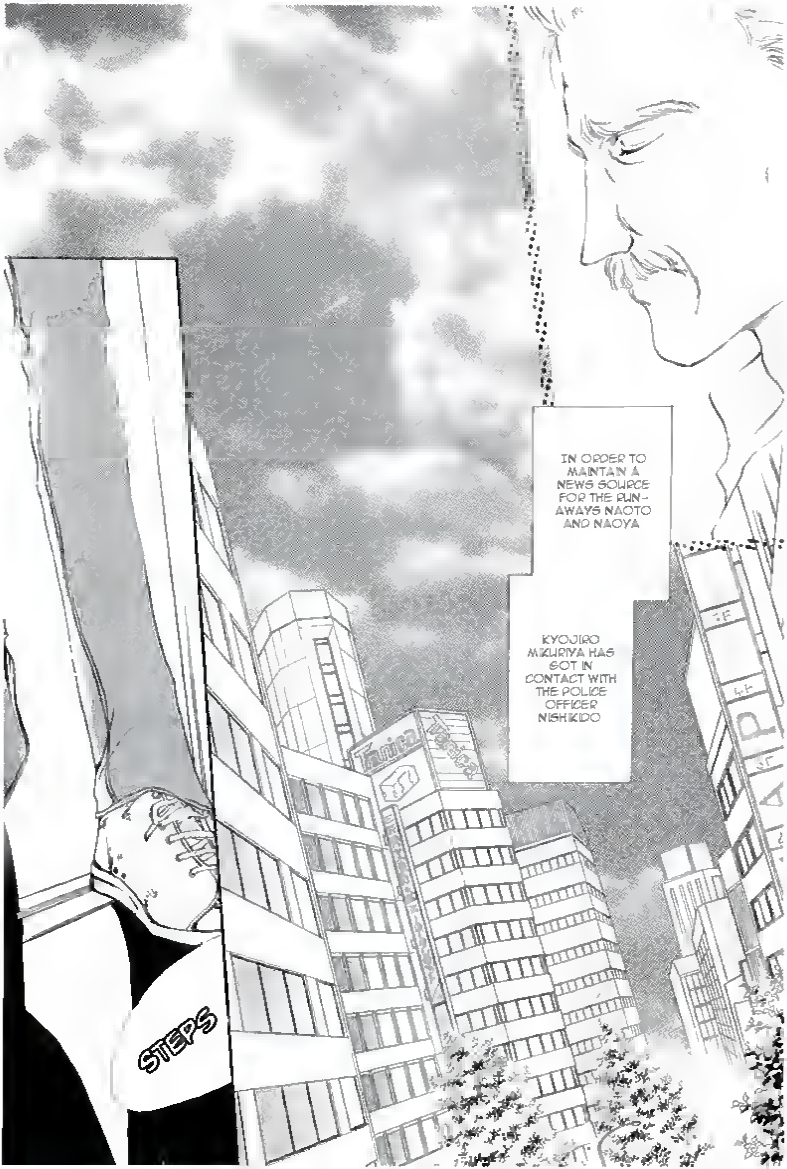
(SFX) BAAM!
THE KIDHARA BROTHERS HAVE ESCAPED THE FACILITY
THEY RAN AWAY FROM THE FACILITY
AS SOON AS ELDER MISAKI PASSED AWAY
THEY MUST HAVE OVER-HEARD MY CONVER-SATION.
EH?
WHAT IS THIS?

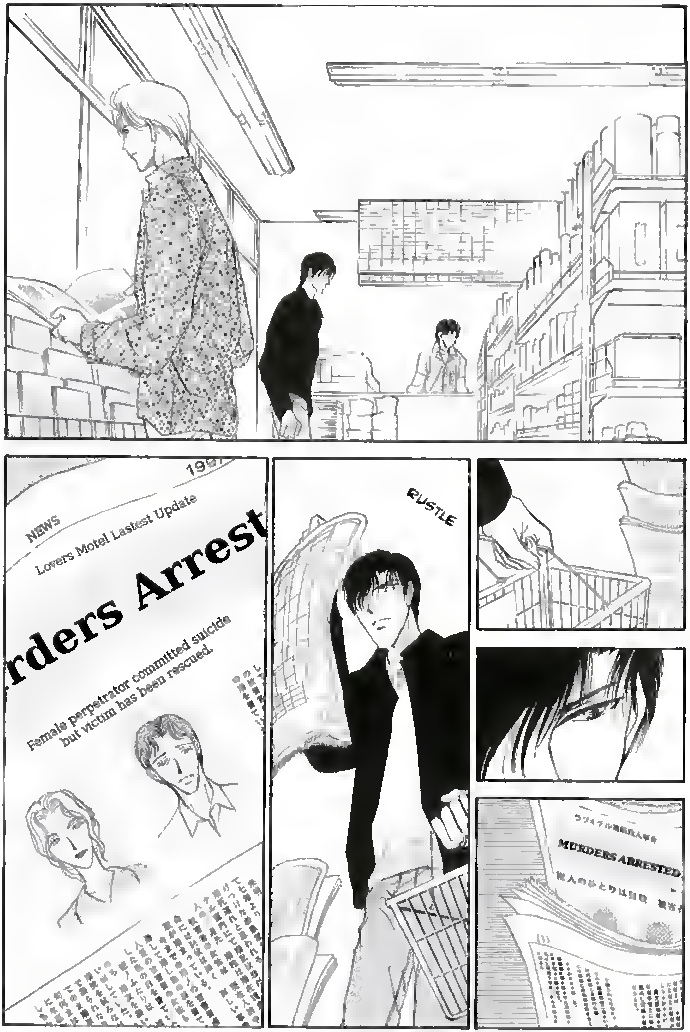
CAPTURES THE VERY MOMENT WHEN AN ORGANISM IS RELEASING ENERGY
RELEASING ENERGY?
THIS TECHNOLOGY IS UNIQUE IN THE SENSE THAT IT CAPTURES THE LIFE SIGNS DIRECTLY ONTO A LOW-SENSITIVITY FILM WITHOUT USING A CAMERA
THE SPECTRUM OF LIGHTS YOU CAN SEE ON THE PHOTO IS THE PLANT'S ENERGY
NISHKIDO HAS HIGH ENOUGH CLEARANCE TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT RESEARCH DEPARTMENT WHICH INVESTED IN OUR RESEARCH
HE WOULD ALWAYS WARN US BEFOREHAND WHENEVER THE POLICE WANTED TO CHECK ON OUR FACILITY
THIS MAN RIGHT HERE IS A FREELANCE REPORTER INTRODUCED TO ME BY A FRIEND WORKING IN THE POLICE FORCE NISHKIDO
THIS PHOTO
heh
TAKE A LOOK
HERE THESE ARE THE PHOTOS I SNAPPED
AND ON THE SAME NIGHT, THERE WAS AN ATTEMPTED MURDER WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE "LOVERS MOTEL", LOCATED ABOUT 100KM OUT FROM HERE. WERE YOU AWARE OF IT?
NO.
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'VE HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THE STRANGE EVENTS AT THE BAR
FIVE DAYS AGO, AT A BAR NEXT TO THE HIGHWAY —
NO, I HAVEN'T.
AH, EXCUSE ME
WHAT ACTUALLY BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?
BUT I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS

THE OTHERS ARE SUFFERING FROM FRACTURED NASAL BONES SEVERE HEADACHES NAUSEA AND SO ON
AMONG THE VICTIMS, 6 WERE MALES AND 3 WERE FEMALES AND ONE OF THEM HAS SUSTAINED CONSIDERABLE INJURIES
IT SEEMS LIKE TWO UNKNOWN MALES WERE PRESENT AT THE BAR AT THE TIME.
ALL THE VICTIMS AGREED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE OFFENDERS ARE "SUPERNATURAL POWERS USERS"
I JUST DON'T SEE HOW THIS IS RELATED TO SUPER-NATURAL POWERS AT ALL
AND THE VICTIM AT THE MOTEL HAS SURELY SEEN THE FACES OF HER PERPET-RATORS WHILST IN THE BATH-ROOM
BECAUSE I CERTAINLY WON'T BELIEVE IN SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA
YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK? ALL THE VICTIMS ARE SIMPLY A BUNCH OF UNEDUCATED AND GULLIBLE FOOLS
He He He

THAT'S RIGHT
THE HUMAN SHADOWS OBSERVED ARE NAOTO AND NAOYA
BOTH OF THEM ARE SUPER-NATURAL POWERS USERS
THIS PHENO-MENON IS SIMILAR TO THE PLANT RELEASING ENERGY
BUT WHEN I WENT TO THE POLICE TO SHOW THEM THE HUMAN SHADOWS AS CAPTURED IN THE PHOTOS
I DON'T KNOW IF THESE EVENTS ARE RELATED OR ENTIRELY SEPARATE CASES
SOMEBODY NAMED NISHIKITO
TOLD ME TO COME TO YOU INSTEAD
I'M GUESSING THAT THEY RELEASED A HUGE AMOUNT OF ENERGY ON THE DAY OF INCIDENT AND LEFT BEHIND TRACES OF IT AFTER THAT
FOR EXAMPLE IF YOU HOLD A FIRE TORCH NEXT TO A BRICK OF WALL TRACES OF BURN WILL REMAIN ON IT
BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T PRESENT WHEN I TOOK THE PHOTOS
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THESE HUMAN SHADOWS ARE
REALLY?
IT MUST BE NAOTO WHO'S INJURED THE CUSTO-MERS AND CREATED A MESS IN THE BAR
HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING NUMER-OUS TRAINING ALL THESE YEARS SO HOW DID HE LOSE CONTROL OF HIS EMO-TIONS —?


DON'T DISCARD IT!
TICKS
IT'S INEVITABLE FOR THEM TO BE RELEASING MINUS ENERGY
WHAT IS THE TRUTH BEHIND THE BAR INCIDENT?
NO, IT'S FINE
IT'S AN OLD ALARM CLOCK DON'T YOU WANT A NEW ONE?
BUT WHY?
I BEG YOU PLEASE, DON'T GET RID OF THIS ALARM CLOCK
BECAUSE NII-SAN
HMM
BECAUSE THIS IS THE FIRST ITEM HE REPAIRED WITH HIS POWER


IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A NEWS SOURCE FOR THE RUN-AWAYS NAOTO AND NAOYA
KYOUJIRO MIZURIYA HAS GOT IN CONTACT WITH THE POLICE OFFICER NISHIKIDO
STEPS


NEWS
Lovers Motel Lastest Update
rders Arrest
Female perpetrator committed suicide but victim has been rescued.
RUSTLE
MURDERS ARRESTED

NAOYA IS FINALLY LIBERATED
THE STRING OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS HAVE FINALLY COME TO AN END
FROM THE CONSTANT NIGHTMARE
I'M GLAD OUR JOINT EFFORT HAS SAVED THE FIFTH VICTIM FROM GETTING STRANGLED TO DEATH
RUSTLE

NAOYA HASN'T BEEN EATING WELL RECENLY AND LOOKS WEAK
GOTTA MAKE HIM EAT BETTER NOW
WE WERE ALWAYS FED WELL BACK AT THE RESEARCH CENTRE
WE NEVER LACKED ANYTHING MATERIALISTICALLY
BUT STILL, LIFE THERE FELT EMPTY AND MEANINGLESS
NOW THAT WE HAVE ESCAPED WE NEED TO PREPARE OUR OWN FAVORITE MEALS
NEXT PLEASE
WHOOSH
SHOCK
EYAAAAA
(SFX) THUD
!

THE BOTTLE SEAL IS BROKEN
I'LL GET A NEW ONE
ARGH!
DRIPS
PSSSSSSSSS!
PERKS
CALM DOWN

IT'S ONLY A MINOR ACCIDENT
THERE'S NO POINT IN GETTING ANGRY OVER IT
IF I CAN'T EVEN SUPPRESS MY ANGER OVER SUCH A MINOR THING
IT WILL BE ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE IF HISTORY REPEATES ITSELF JUST LIKE AT THE BAR
HEY, YOU!

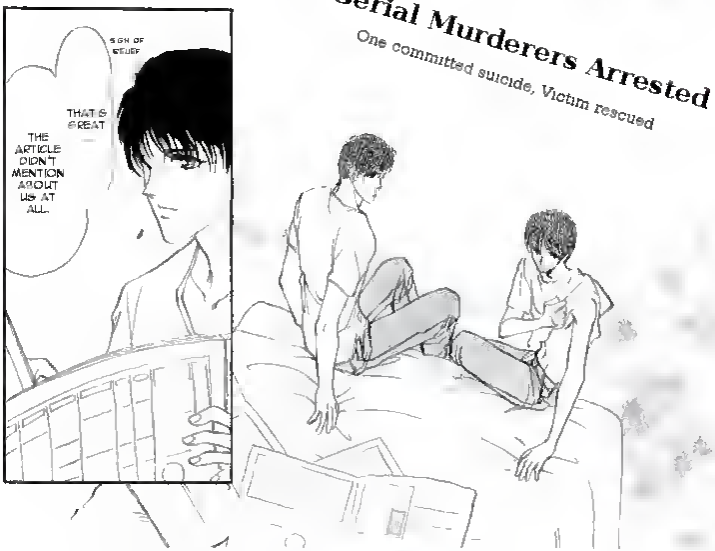
YOU SHOULD APOLO-GIZE
YOUR BOTTLE FELL RIGHT ON HIS FOOT!
ERRR
SO-SORRY ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
AHH
I
ERM
YES DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
NOW I SEE

THERE IS AN EASY WAY OUT A LOT OF THE TIME
THINGS DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BECOME COMPLICATED
MY ANGER WAS SUPPRESSED AS SOON AS HE APOLOGISED
THAT'S RIGHT
TO THINK THAT I WAS ACTUALLY CONSIDERING ABOUT USING MY POWERS
RUSTLE
HOW DUMB OF ME!
BESIDES
<Newspaper> Murderers

CLICK
I COULD EVEN SAVE HUMAN LIVES—!
I'M MY POWERS ARE USED WISELY

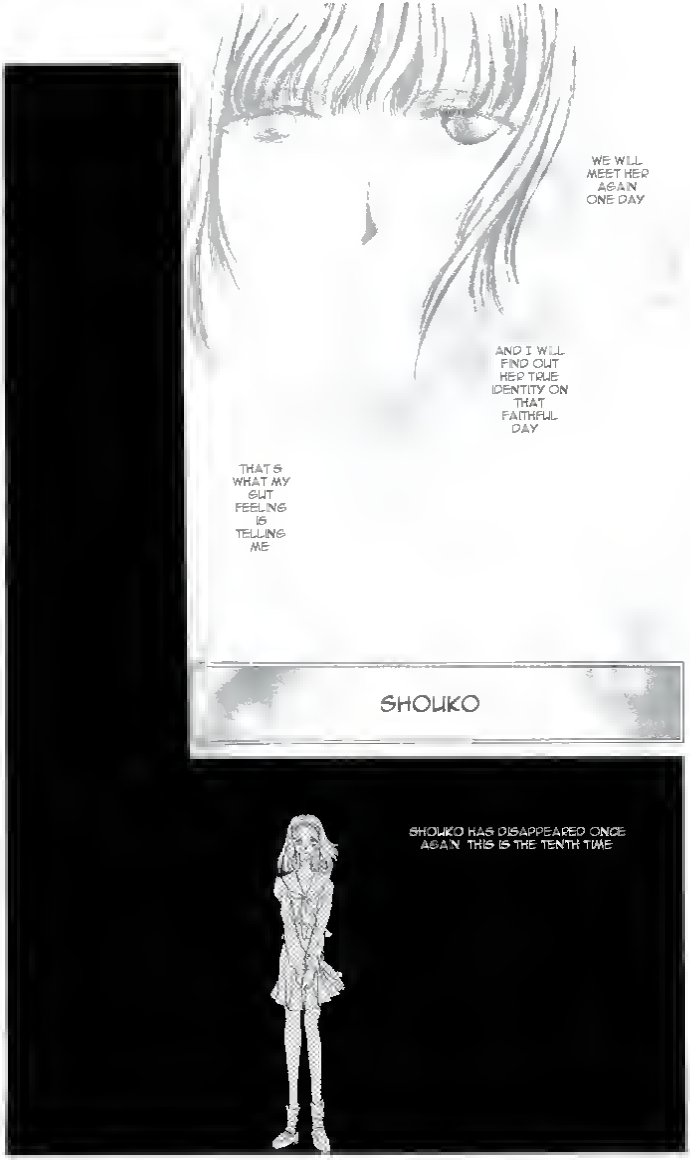
Serial Murderers Arrested

One committed suicide, Victim rescued



After a near death experience, Miss J (23 years old) is recovering well after being treated at the hospital emergency department.
LUCKILY WE SAVED HER IN TIME
I'M SO GLAD !
NEITHER THE MALE CRIMINAL NOR THE VICTIM HAVE ANY RECOLLECTION OF US
YEAH, NO ONE ELSE HAS SEEN US
AHUH
THE VICTIM WHO SENSED HER IMPENDING DEATH AND SENT OUT RESCUE SIGNALS SUBCONSCIOUSLY
SHE WON'T HAVE ANY MEMORIES WHATSOEVER REGARDING OUR PRESENCE AT THE CRIME SCENE
SHE WON'T FIND OUT HOW AND WHY SHE WAS RESCUED EITHER AN ABOUT HER DORMENT SUPERNATURAL POWERS
AND SHE DEFINITELY WON'T REALISE SHE HAS REWRITTEN HER OWN FUTURE
MAYBE THAT'S THE BEST FOR HER
PERHAPS SHE'LL SEE US IN HER DREAM AND SHE COULD ONLY WONDER WHO WE ACTUALLY ARE

BUT WHERE SHE COMES FROM
HER EXISTENCE IS IN AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TIMELINE
YOU HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA?
YOU MEAN THE GIRL WHO SENT YOU A MESSAGE TELPATHICALLY?
NO
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHO'S THAT GIRL?
BUT WHO'S THE ONE
SHOULDN'T BE TOO FAR AWAY FROM US
SO WHY DID SHE SEND YOU THE MESSAGE? IS IT RELATED TO OUR POWERS?
I'M NOT SURE BUT
BUT I'M POSITIVE
EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T MET HER, SHE HAS LEFT A DEEP MARK IN MY MIND...
IT'S UNLIKE ANYTHING I HAVE EXPERIENCED BEFORE


WE WILL MEET HER AGAIN ONE DAY
AND I WILL FIND OUT HER TRUE IDENTITY ON THAT FAITHFUL DAY
THAT'S WHAT MY GUT FEELING IS TELLING ME
SHOUKO
SHOUKO HAS DISAPPEARED ONCE AGAIN. THIS IS THE TENTH TIME

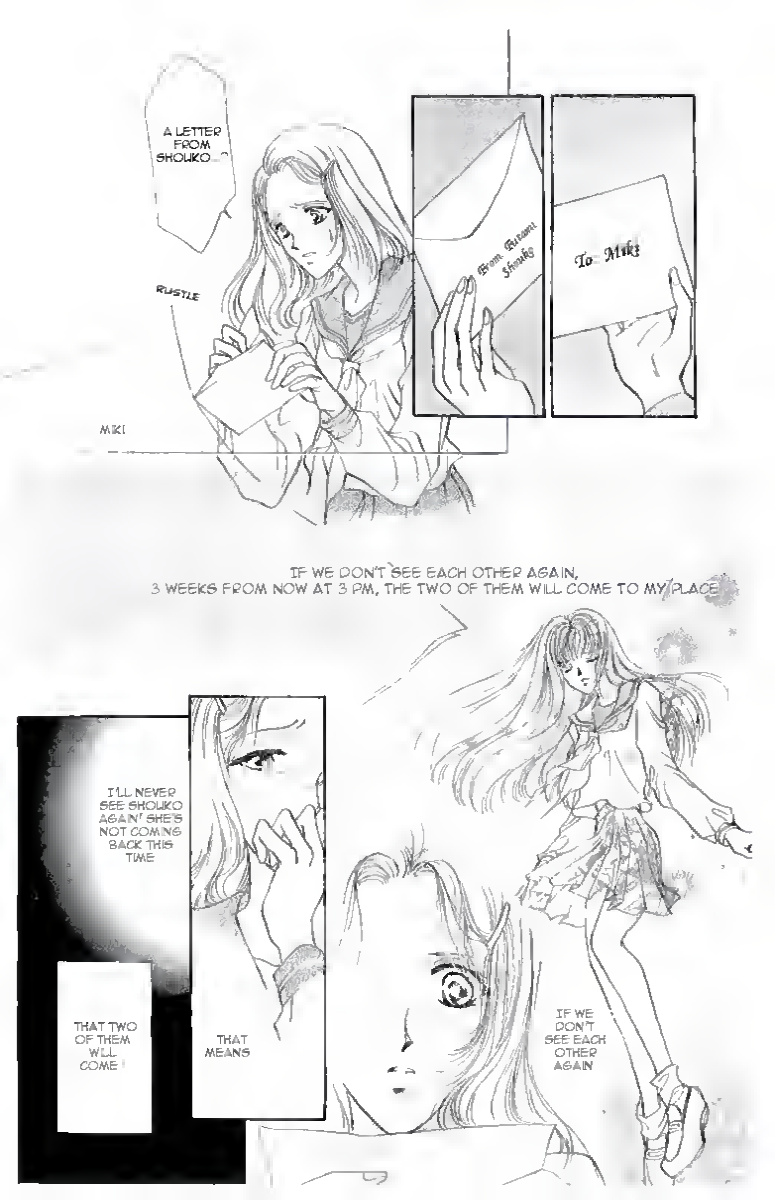
BUT IT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME AROUND. BECAUSE SHE STILL HASN'T RETURNED.

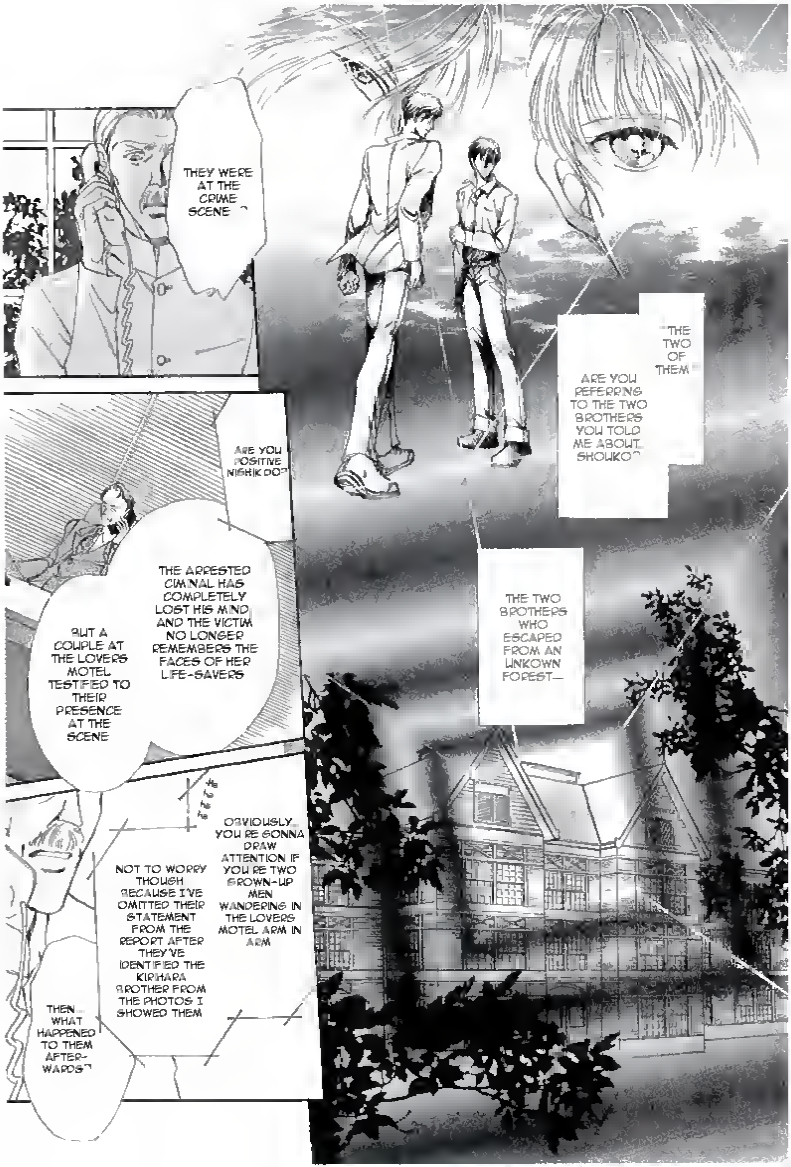
IT'S AS THOUGH SHE'S DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR!
HER CLOTHES AND PURSE ARE STILL IN HER ROOM
SO ARE THE FRONT AND BACK DOORS OF THE HOUSE
BOTH THE WINDOWS IN THE ROOM ARE LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE
SHE'S NO LONGER THERE?
MIDNIGHT NO, AT ABOUT 2 AM THIS MORNING, I THOUGHT I HEARD THE RUSTLING NOISE OF THE RADIO CHANNELS
AND WHEN I WENT INTO MY DAUGHTER'S ROOM
DISAPPEARED

SHOUKO— HAS DISAPPEARED.

HMM... YES, THOSE ARE SHOUKO'S WRITINGS.
STRANGE LOOKING CHARACTERS. IS IT A TREND TO WRITE IN THESE CHARACTERS AT SCHOOL?
WHAT IS THIS?
...T I KNOW ...O ONE'S ...OING TO ...IEVE WHAT ...CTUALLY ...APPENED,
...ECAUSE I CAN'T ...EVEN EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO SHOUKO MYSELF.

DEEP DOWN, I KNOW FOR SURE THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO TRACK DOWN SHOUKO
EH
YET, I CAN FEEL A COOL BREEZE SEEPING THROUGH
THE WINDOWS ARE TIGHTLY SHUT
NO ONE WAS ABLE TO EXPLAIN SHOUKO'S DISAPPEARANCE
THE POLICE EVENTUALLY END HER CASE AS A "RUN-AWAY FROM HOME"
I DON'T KNOW—
HER PUPILS WERE DILATED AND SHE WAS PHASING IN & AND OUT
SHOUKO WAS ACTING ABNORMALLY THAT DAY
I REMEMBER NOW! SHE USED TO PASS OUT FREQUENTLY FOR NO APPARENT REASON
AH!
AND WHEN WE TOOK HER TO THE HOSPITAL, THE DOCTORS COULDN'T DIAGNOSE ANYTHING
IS THIS RELATED TO HER DISAPPEARANCE?

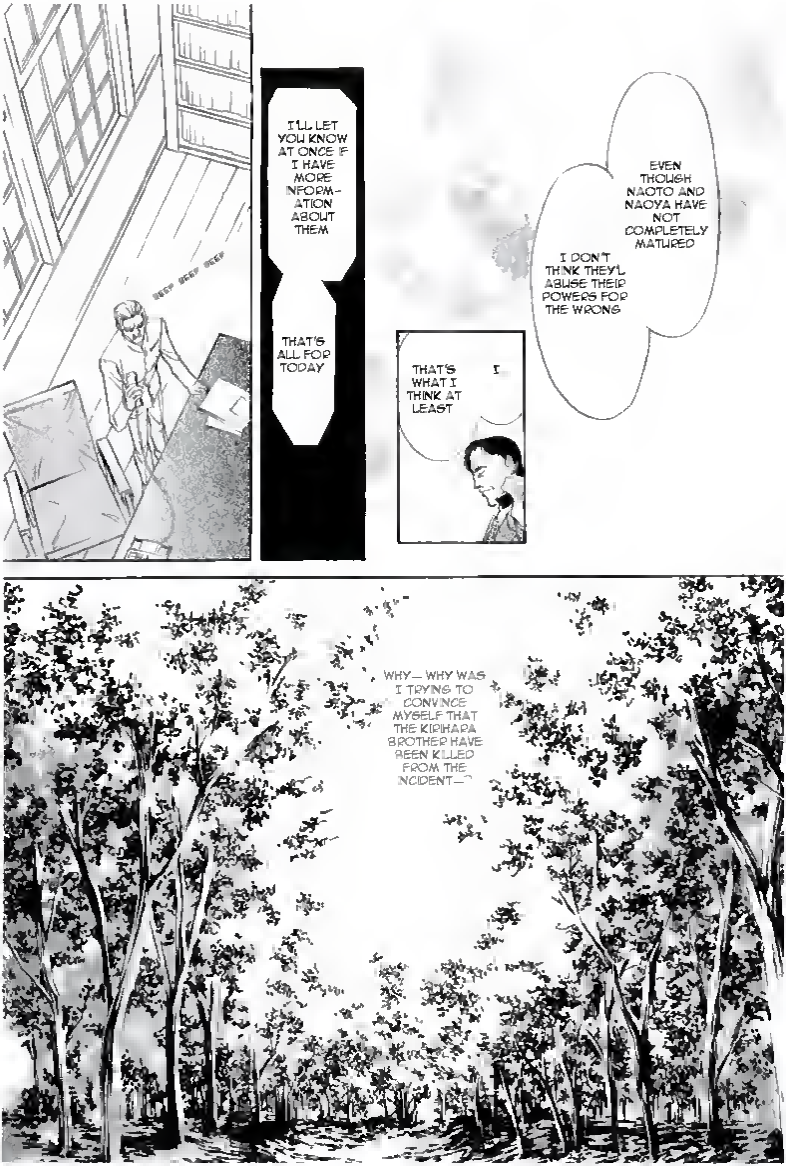

A LETTER FROM SHOUKO...
RUSTLE
MIKI
From Shouko Suzuki
To Miki
IF WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, 3 WEEKS FROM NOW AT 3 PM, THE TWO OF THEM WILL COME TO MY PLACE
I'LL NEVER SEE SHOUKO AGAIN! SHE'S NOT COMING BACK THIS TIME
THAT MEANS
THAT TWO OF THEM WILL COME!
IF WE DON'T SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN

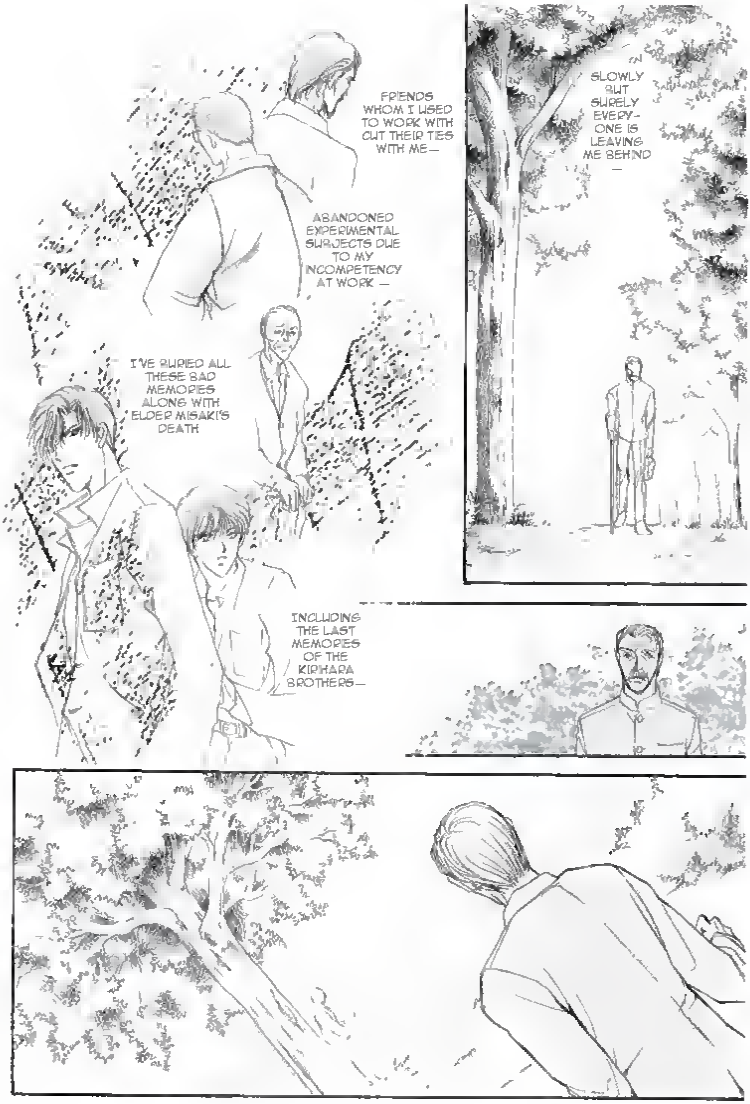

THEY WERE AT THE CRIME SCENE
ARE YOU POSITIVE NISHIKIDO?
THE ARRESTED CRIMINAL HAS COMPLETELY LOST HIS MIND AND THE VICTIM NO LONGER REMEMBERS THE FACES OF HER LIFE-SAVERS
BUT A COUPLE AT THE LOVERS MOTEL TESTIFIED TO THEIR PRESENCE AT THE SCENE
OBVIOUSLY YOU'RE GONNA DRAW ATTENTION IF YOU'RE TWO GROWN-UP MEN WANDERING IN THE LOVERS MOTEL ARM IN ARM
NOT TO WORRY THOUGH BECAUSE I'VE OMITTED THEIR STATEMENT FROM THE REPORT AFTER THEY'VE IDENTIFIED THE KIRIHARA BROTHER FROM THE PHOTOS I SHOWED THEM
THEN... WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM AFTER-WARDS?
"THE TWO OF THEM"
ARE YOU REFERRING TO THE TWO BROTHERS YOU TOLD ME ABOUT, SHOUKO?
THE TWO BROTHERS WHO ESCAPED FROM AN UNKOWN FOREST—

THE POLICE WISH TO COMMEND THEIR EFFORT BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THEY'RE NO WHERE TO BE FOUND
I GUESS THESE ARE THE GOOD DEEDS A SUPER-POWER USER CAN DO
THEY RAN AWAY WELL BEFORE THE POLICE ARRIVED AT THE SCENE

I GUESS THEY WILL BE TREATED AS UNEXPLAIN-ABLE EVIDENCE
THE ONLY EVIDENCE I COULDN'T REMOVE WERE THE BURN MARKS IN THE ROOM
DON'T WORRY
THE DOOR KNOB TO THE MOTEL ROOM HAS BEEN CHANGED THEIR FINGERPRINTS WON'T BE RECOVERED FROM THE SCENE

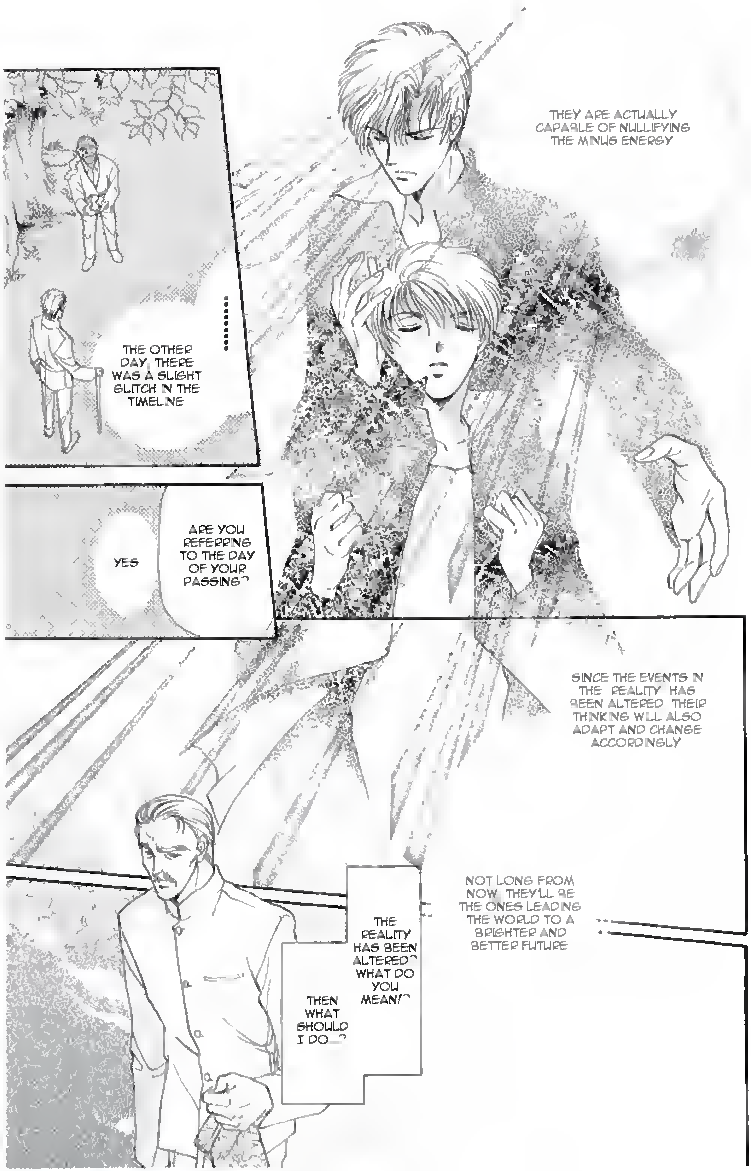
THE KIRIHARA BROTHERS ARE DIFFERENT FROM SONESAKI SO DON'T WORRY
THEY MANAGED TO SAVE THE VICTIM AT THE VERY LAST MOMENT
THEY MERELY TRACKED DOWN THE MURDERERS TO THE MOTEL SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE BECAUSE HER PLOTTED MURDER FAILED
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THEY
ONE OF THE CIMINALS JUMPED FROM THE 7TH FLOOR
MIKURIYA!

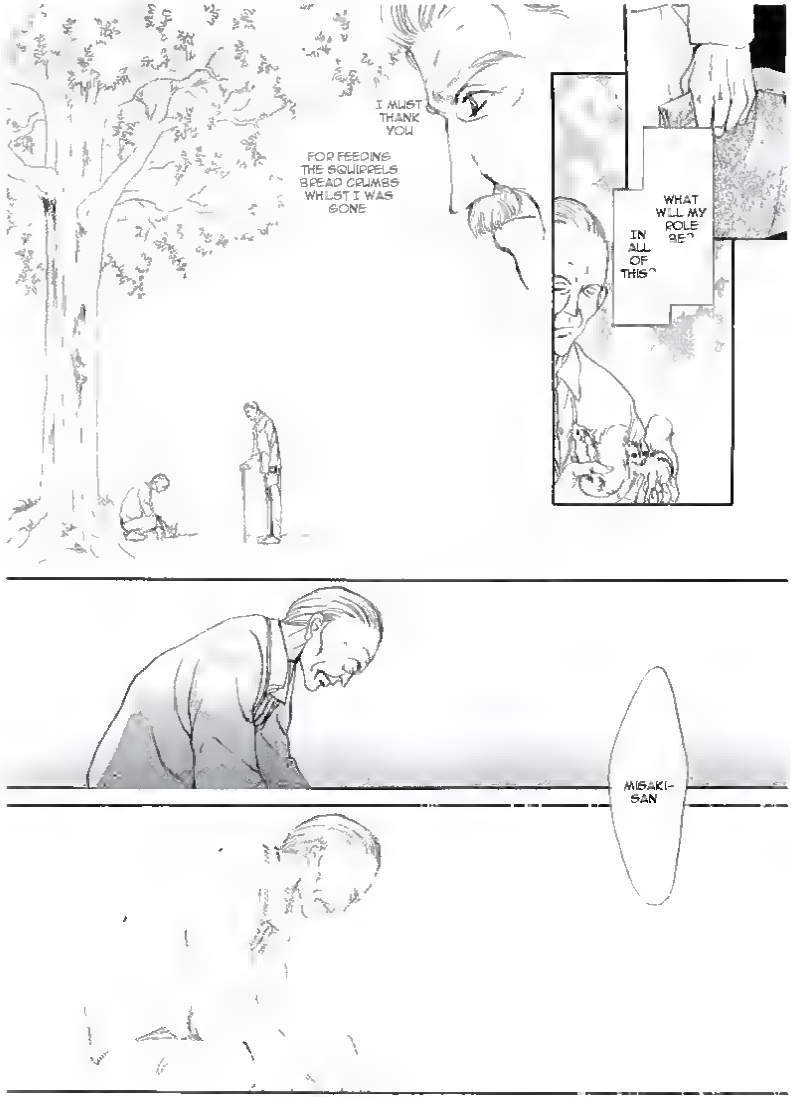

BEEP BEEP BEEP
I'LL LET YOU KNOW AT ONCE IF I HAVE MORE INFORM-ATION ABOUT THEM
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY
EVEN THOUGH NAOTO AND NAOYA HAVE NOT COMPLETELY MATURED
I DON'T THINK THEY'L ABUSE THEIR POWERS FOR THE WRONG
I
THAT'S WHAT I THINK AT LEAST
WHY— WHY WAS I TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT THE KIRIHARA BROTHER HAVE BEEN KILLED FROM THE INCIDENT—?

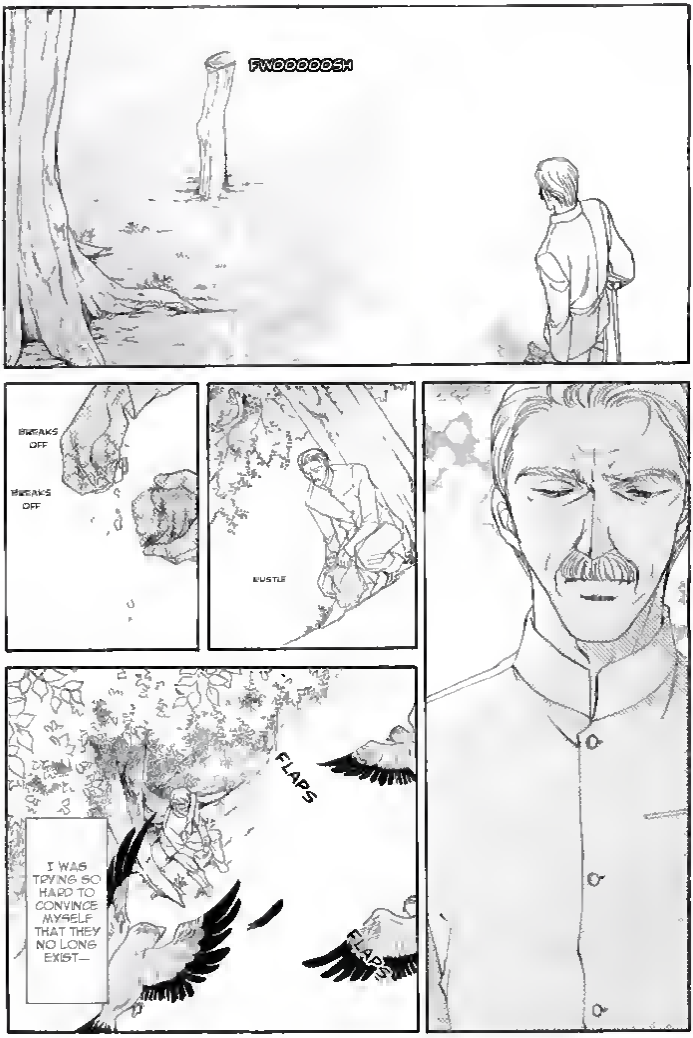

FRIENDS WHOM I USED TO WORK WITH CUT THEIR TIES WITH ME—
ABANDONED EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECTS DUE TO MY INCOMPETENCY AT WORK —
I'VE BURIED ALL THESE BAD MEMORIES ALONG WITH ELDER MISAKI'S DEATH
SLOWLY BUT SURELY EVERY-ONE IS LEAVING ME BEHIND —
INCLUDING THE LAST MEMORIES OF THE KIRIHARA BROTHERS—

THEN, WHY IS HE
THAT'S RIGHT I BURIED HIS BODY NEARBY JUST AS HE WISHED—
THERE, RIGHT UNDERNEATH THAT TREE
BUT HE'S DEAD! THAT FIGURE CAN'T BE HIM!
RUSTLE
MISAKI-SAN!

MISAKI-SAN
A STREAM HAS APPEARED
!
PLEASE TELL ME THE REASON THEN, MISAKI-SAN!
THERE'S A CERTAIN REASON WHY THEY'RE CONSTANTLY RELEASING THE MINUS ENERGY
PLEASE


THE OTHER DAY, THERE WAS A SLIGHT GLITCH IN THE TIMELINE
.....
ARE YOU REFERRING TO THE DAY OF YOUR PASSING?
YES
THEY ARE ACTUALLY CAPABLE OF NULLIFYING THE MINUS ENERGY
SINCE THE EVENTS IN THE REALITY HAS BEEN ALTERED THEIR THINKING WILL ALSO ADAPT AND CHANGE ACCORDINGLY
NOT LONG FROM NOW, THEY'LL BE THE ONES LEADING THE WORLD TO A BRIGHTER AND BETTER FUTURE
THE REALITY HAS BEEN ALTERED? WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO...?


I MUST THANK YOU
FOR FEEDING THE SQUIRRELS BREAD CRUMBS WHILST I WAS GONE
WHAT WILL MY ROLE BE IN ALL OF THIS?
MISAKI-SAN


FWOOOOOSH
BREAKS OFF
BREAKS OFF
RUSTLE
FLAPS
I WAS TRYING SO HARD TO CONVINCE MYSELF THAT THEY NO LONG EXIST—
FLAPS

I MUST GET IN TOUCH WITH NAOTO AND NAOYA AGAIN
BECAUSE THEY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED
I'VE REPEATEDLY
TOLD MYSELF THAT THEY ARE DEAD
DROPS
DEEP INSIDE I ACTUALLY WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THEM

THIS FOREST IS A GREAT SOURCE FOR THEM TO REPLENISH THEIR ENERGY
THERE WAS A GLITCH IN THE TIMELINE FOLLOWING ELDER MISAKI'S DEATH
I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT YOU DON'T GIVE IN TO LIFE—
NO MATTER HOW MUCH REALITY HAS DEVIATED FROM ITS COURSE

FLAPS
AND THE ONLY THING I CAN DO NOW
IS TO FOLLOW THE BROTHERS CLOSELY AND WATCH THEIR BACKS
SOMEONE, GET TOMOEDA-KUN TO MY OFFICE NOW!

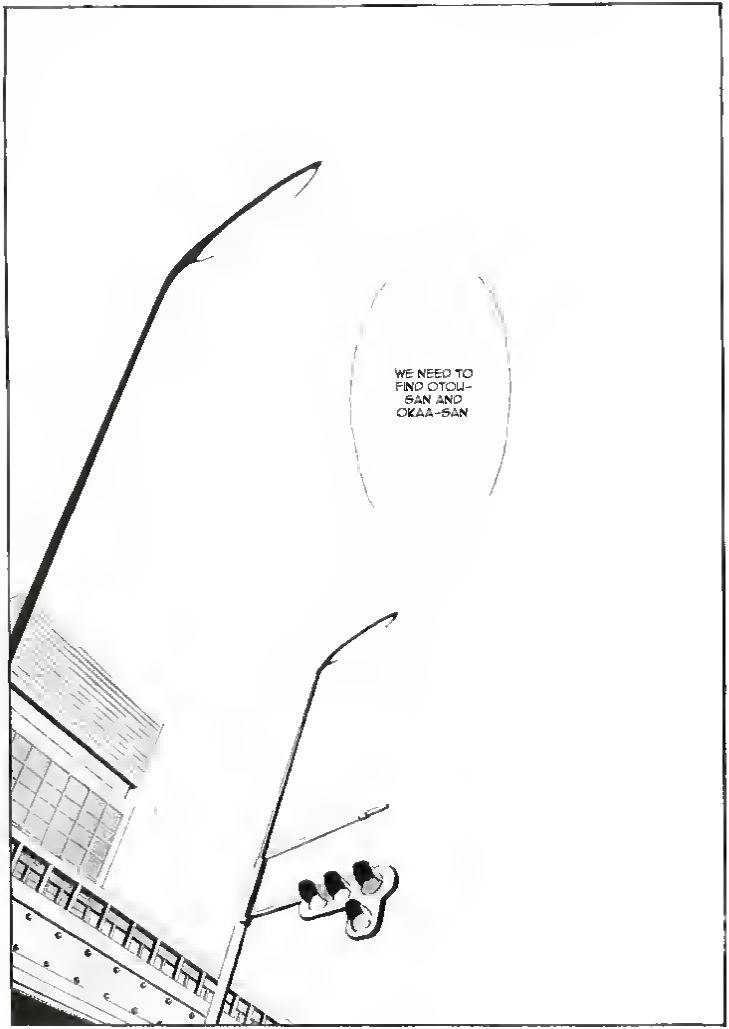
WE WILL BE SWARMED IN MINUS ENERGY
HMM...
THIS FEELING IS QUITE OVER-WHELMING
I THOUGHT I WAS AS GOOD AS DEAD AT TIMES

THE VERY THOUGHT OF LOSING HOLD OF THE WORLD YOU DWELL IN IS INDEED UNNERVING AND TERRIFYING
THE CUSTOMERS AT THE BAR WERE AFRAID OF US
EITHER WAY, THE EMOTIONAL WAVES THEY'D EMIT—ENVIED WERE OVERWHELMING
ON THE OTHER HAND, REIKO COMMITTED HER CRIMES BECAUSE SHE WAS AFRAID SHE'D BE KILLED OTHERWISE
IN FACT, THE WORLD IS CONSTANTLY SHAKEN BY FEAR
RUSTLE
IF HUMANS CAN CONTROL THEIR FEAR OVER MATTERS LIKE UNCERTAINTIES AND DEATH, THIS WILL BE A VERY DIFFERENT WORLD TO LIVE IN
SAME GOES WITH OTOU-SAN AND OKAA-SAN
THEY WERE AFRAID OF OUR POWERS TOO

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THEIR ESCALATED FEAR BUT THEY WEREN'T ACTUALLY AFRAID OF OUR POWERS
THEN WHAT IS IT?
THEY WERE FRIGHTENED BECAUSE THEY FAILED TO UNDERSTAND THEIR OWN CHILDREN!
AS WE WERE LEAVING, I CLEARLY REMEMBER THE FEAR IN THEIR EYES
TO THINK THAT PARENTS ARE SO FRIGHTENED BY THEIR OWN CHILDREN
NII-SAN, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
WE ARE GIFTED WITH SUCH MYSERIOUS POWERS BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM
THEY JUST FELT HELPLESS AND HOPELESS WHEN FACED WITH THE TRUTH!
THIS IS THE REAL REASON WHY OTOU-SAN AND OKAA-SAN WERE SO AFRAID

THIS WHOLE MINUS ENERGY SAGA
BUT WE'VE GROWN SO MUCH SINCE THEN
THERE ARE OTHER THINGS WE CAN DO RATHER THAN DWELL IN THE PAST
WE WERE STILL SO YOUNG BACK THEN
THAT'S WHY THEY DECIDED TO SEND US AWAY.
HOPING THAT MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE SUCH AS MIKURIYA-SAN COULD TAKE CARE OF US
THAT'S WHY
I DIDN'T FIGHT AGAINST THEIR DECISION EVEN THOUGH I KNEW WHAT THEY WERE PLANNING BECAUSE THEY WERE SO DEVASTATED

NAOYA—
EVEN THOUGH YOU APPEAR TO BE WEAK A LOT OF THE TIME, YOU'VE GUIDED US ONTO THE RIGHT PATH THIS TIME AROUND
IF ONE'S HEART IS MERELY FILLED WITH FEAR
THERE WILL NEVER BE ANY IMPROVE-MENT OR DEVELOP-MENT
BUT HAD WE REMAINED IN THE RESEARCH FACILITY...
IS INDEED A CONSTANT WORRY FOR US
LET'S GO, NAOYA
WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RECTIFY ANY PROBLEMS ON OUR OWN
WE'LL NEVER GET TO UNDERSTAND THE FEELING OF SATISFACTION!


WE NEED TO FIND OTOU-SAN AND OKAA-SAN